

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 646

By Berke

A RESOLUTION to designate the month of May as "Tennessee Jewish Heritage Month."

WHEREAS, in the 1770s, Jewish immigrants traveled into East Tennessee, and by the 1820s, Jewish families were moving westward into the Middle Tennessee region. By 1870, Jewish communities in Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville, and Chattanooga were thriving, establishing congregations for worship and purchasing land for cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, Jews made historic contributions during the Civil War and Reconstruction and in World War II, when more than 1,000 Tennessee Jews served in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, many Jewish scientists migrated to East Tennessee in 1943 to work on the atom bomb for the clandestine Manhattan Project, living in remote Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee experienced additional growth as Holocaust refugees and survivors relocated to Tennessee. Tennessee has seen an influx from around the nation of Jewish health and music industry professionals, university professors, executives, and artists; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, became the third such state organization in the country; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, non-Jewish middle-school children in Whitwell, Tennessee, created the internationally acclaimed Children's Holocaust Memorial, documented in an award-winning film entitled *Paperclips*; and

WHEREAS, today, more than 20,000 Jews live in Tennessee, and vibrant Jewish communities exist throughout the state, Tennessee Jewish Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor the many accomplishments of Tennessee's Jewish citizens to the State in education, business, industry, the arts and sciences, and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, the month of May is designated “Jewish Heritage Month in the Nation”; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we do hereby designate May as “Tennessee Jewish Heritage Month” and call upon all Tennesseans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor Jewish Tennesseans across the State

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.